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Letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the decree of the President of Turkmenistan dated 12 March 2004 regarding the ensuring of the religious freedoms of the citizens of Turkmenistan (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 117 (c).

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Decree of 12 March 2004 by the President of Turkmenistan on guaranteeing the religious freedoms of citizens in Turkmenistan

The Constitution of Turkmenistan guarantees the freedom to choose a religion as an integral part of the civil and political rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens. Turkmenistan fully implements the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and other international instruments, and complies with the generally recognized international standards for ensuring the observance of the religious rights and freedoms of citizens, thereby guaranteeing harmony among the religious faiths represented in the territory of Turkmenistan.

Taking into account the historic relations of respect for the choice of the religious freedoms of citizens and also in strict conformity with the generally recognized international standards and principles with regard to freedom of conscience, I decide:

1. To ensure the registration in the territory of Turkmenistan of religious organizations and groups in accordance with generally recognized international standards and rules;

2. To register in the territory of Turkmenistan, in accordance with the established procedure, religious groups of citizens, regardless of their numerical size, denomination and religion;

3. The Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan is to implement this decree as of the date of its publication.